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Attention Newsroom—News Release

March 9, 2005
For Immediate Release

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World War I veteran's remains to be interred

(MADISON) – The cremated remains of a World War I veteran, one of 122,215 Wisconsin citizens who served during World War I, who died in 1973, will be interred in the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Union Grove this Friday, March 11, 2005.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), which oversees veterans' benefits and services including burials in state cemeteries and military funeral honors, was contacted Tuesday by the Schuette-Daniels Funeral Home of Burlington. The funeral home has held the cremated remains of Henry Howard since his death in March 1973 at the age of 80. After an exhausted search by the funeral home staff, in a last effort they contacted the WDVA to request assistance with a burial.

The Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery (SWVMC) was able to verify Howard's military service through the National Personnel Records Center. Howard served in the U.S. Army during World War I, from April 25, 1919 through October 12, 1920 with a discharge rank of Corporal. The WDVA then determined Howard's Wisconsin residency through records on file with the funeral home and deemed the deceased eligible for Wisconsin veteran's burial benefits with full military funeral honors. His address at the time of death was Burlington.

Department Secretary John A. Scocos said, "In light of this unique situation, the department felt that full military funeral honors are in order for Mr. Henry Howard to be properly laid to rest, to bestow upon this World War I veteran the full care and respect he earned and deserves for his service to our country."

Military Funeral Honors services for Howard will be held at 12:30 p.m. on March 11th at the SWVMC. His burial ceremony will be one of seven to take place this Friday. Howard's funeral services will be carried out as the state veterans cemeteries normally perform them when there is no next of kin; local chapters of veterans service organization representatives will be present at Friday's service. A WDVA Military Funeral Honors Team member will wear a World War I uniform as he folds and presents the flag. Mr. Howard's flag will be flown at the SWVMC during special ceremonies.

For more information about Wisconsin veterans' burial and military funeral honors benefits, go to the WDVA web site at www.dva.state.wi.us, or call toll-free at 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387).